

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 7, and 8 as shown below.

This list of claims will replace all prior versions and lists of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for automatically detecting the presence of an external device in an earphone jack port of a mobile terminal, the apparatus comprising:

a connection unit to electrically connect an earphone/microphone set or an external device to the mobile terminal, and to send level information according to whether the earphone/microphone set or the external device is connected to the mobile terminal, wherein the level information has a first voltage level if the earphone/microphone set is connected to the mobile terminal and a second voltage level if the external device is connected to the mobile terminal;

a switch end to identify that the earphone/microphone set or the external device is electrically connected to the connection unit if the switch end is open;

a sensor to determine whether the earphone/microphone set or the external device is electrically connected to the connection unit according to the voltage level of the level information and to generate an indication signal containing a determination result;

a main processor to generate a control signal to control the earphone/microphone set or the external device according to the indication signal; and

an external device controller to control the external device, if the external device is connected to the mobile terminal, by receiving the control signal from the main processor,

wherein the external device controller enables the connected external device automatically if the external device is connected to the connection unit.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

a call controller to generate a call signal indicating whether the mobile terminal is used for originating a call; and

an earphone/microphone set controller to control an earphone/microphone set to pass a voice signal to a voice input/output unit in the mobile terminal according to the voltage level of the level information and the call signal.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the main processor generates the control signal to enable the external device controller if the indication signal represents that the external device is connected to the connection unit, and generates a shot signal and a charge control signal.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 3, wherein the external device controller controls the external device according to the shot signal and the charge control signal from the main processor.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein the main processor generates the control signal to enable the earphone/microphone set controller if the indication signal represents that the earphone/microphone set is connected to the connection unit.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the connection unit includes:

a microphone/charge-control signal end to provide a connection to either a microphone end of a earphone/microphone set plug or a charge-control signal end of an external device plug;

a speaker/shot end to provide a connection to either a speaker end of the earphone/microphone set plug or a shot end of the external device plug; and

~~a switch end to identify whether the earphone/microphone set or the external device is electrically connected to the connection unit; and~~

a ground end to provide a connection to either a ground end of the earphone/microphone set plug or a ground end of the external device plug.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically detecting the presence of an external device in an earphone jack port of a mobile terminal, the method comprising the steps of:

a) detecting that a switch end is in an open position to indicate that an earphone/microphone set or the external device is connected to the mobile terminal, and obtaining level information from a connection unit, wherein the level information has a first voltage level if ~~[[a]]~~ the earphone/microphone set is connected to the mobile terminal and a second voltage level if the external device is connected to the mobile terminal;

b) determining whether the earphone/microphone set or the external device is electrically connected to the connection unit according to the voltage level of the level information;

c) enabling an external device control unit if the external device is electrically connected to the connection unit; and

d) enabling an earphone/microphone set control unit if the earphone/microphone set is electrically connected to the connection unit.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the external device is a strobo, wherein the external device controller enables the connected strobo automatically if the strobo is connected to the connection unit and a digital camera is used.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the external device is a strobo.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first voltage level is 2.7 volts to 3.0 volts, and the second voltage level is 0.5 volts.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the first voltage level is 2.7 volts to 3.0 volts, and the second voltage level is 0.5 volts.